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## Key Facts

<b>Full Title:</b>	<i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i>
<b>Author:</b>	Jay Asher
<b>Genre:</b>	Young-adult fiction
<b>Date of Publication:</b>	2007
<b>Publisher:</b>	RazorBill (a young adult imprint of Penguin Books)
<b>Narrator:</b>	There are two narrators, who are Clay Jensen and Hannah Baker. Clay narrates in the present setting of the novel, listening to Hannah's narration, recorded on cassette tapes.
<b>Point of View:</b>	Clay and Hannah narrates in first person's point of view.
<b>Tone:</b>	Both Hannah and Clay have dark, gloomy, mature, and depressing tones
<b>Setting (Time):</b>	The present, 2007
<b>Setting (Place):</b>	A town, Crestmont in California, Rosie's Diner, Monet's Garden Cafe, high school.
<b>Tense:</b>	Past and present.
<b>Motifs:</b>	Suicidal thoughts
<b>Protagonist:</b>	Hannah Baker
<b>Major Conflict:</b>	Hannah Baker, the new student, gets herself into number of rumors and commits suicide. Before she dies, she records herself explaining to thirteen people who made her kill

herself and send the tapes to them. This novel revolves around conflicts between those people and Hannah.

**Rising Action:**

Clay Jensen receives a shoebox in front of his door and finds seven cassette tapes recorded by Hannah, who has recently committed suicide. As Clay listens to Hannah narrating about her pain and sadness, the conflicts start to arise.

**Climax:**

Hannah and Clay get a chance to talk to each other at the party. They kiss each other, but Hannah thinks about her past memories with boys and pushes Clay away. Clay regrets about that night because he had a chance to be a person who Hannah can rely on and Hannah becomes devastated. Eventually, this leads her to her suicide.

**Falling Action:**

Hannah gives herself one last chance and talks to Mr. Porter about committing a suicide. She wants to hear a solution in her life, but Mr. Porter tells her to move on. Hannah finds this pointless and decides to commit suicide by taking pills.

**Foreshadowing:**

At the end of the novel, Clay calls Skye's name because she reminds him of Hannah. Last time he was with Hannah, he lost his chance with Hannah and let her commit suicide. This makes the readers to foreshadow future relationship with Clay and Skye. Clay is likely to make up to Skye the things he has not been able to do to Hannah.

## Plot Overview

Clay Jensen, a peer of Hannah, is a shy student who is described as the “perfect guy.” One day, after school, Clay receives a box sitting in front of his door. Inside the box, Clay discovers seven tapes and a map by Hannah Baker, who was a regular high school student. However, one day Hannah decides to commit suicide. She believes that she has no needs to live anymore. The novel *Thirteen Reasons Why* is narrated by two characters: Hannah and Clay. Before Hannah dies, she had recorded tapes for the thirteen reasons why she decided to commit suicide. Hannah gave instructions to the first tape listener to pass down the tapes when he or she is done listening.

The first person who played a role in Hannah’s death was Justin Foley. He was the first kiss Hannah had. Freshman year of high school, Hannah had a crush on him. However Justin exaggerates the kiss he had with Hannah. Hannah was new to her high school and since Justin lied about his kiss with her, this creates a negative impression about Hannah. Justin appears in the tape two times. The second reason he appears is because at a party with Jessica Davis, she leaves her in a room and Jessica gets raped. Hannah was hiding in the closet and viewed the tragic event that happened to her “friend.”

After the negative reputation, Alex Standall adds on the reputation making everything worse. During class, Alex creates a *Who’s Hot and Who’s Not* list and under the hot column, Hannah is marked with the “Hottest Ass in the Freshman Class.” On top of the exaggerated kiss gossip with Justin, Alex decides to create the list where the whole school figures out. Hannah starts to become the object of sexual harassment, the sexual

icon. Due to Alex and Justin, Hannah becomes to build a bad reputation at school. Students begin to create rumors about Hannah and the amount of rumors increase until Hannah is no longer able to handle all the rumors.

Jessica Davis, Alex, and Hannah were all once friends since they were new to the school. However since Jessica was not under the hot section of the list, she is jealous of Hannah. Jessica liked Alex but thought Alex like Hannah. Jessica and Hannah would be able to talk about different stuff, however Hannah was betrayed by Jessica. Jessica believed that the rumors were true, therefore starts to create a distance between herself and Hannah.

One day Hannah notices that Tyler Down has been at her window peeking in and taking photos of her. Courtney Crimsen, a popular student decides to help Hannah. Tyler stole Hannah's safety at home. On the other side, when Tyler gets caught, the next day Courtney does not talk with Hannah. Courtney wants to keep her positive reputation so she acts friendly to Hannah.

On Valentine's Day, the cheerleaders come up with a fundraising event. Hannah was listed on Marcus Cooley's list. Marcus and Hannah were to meet at Rosie's Diner but Hannah is there alone waiting for Marcus. Marcus shows up about half an hour later because he thought they were just joking about meeting. When they are at the Diner, Hannah goes through sexual harassment. At the Diner, Zach Dempsey witnesses the confrontation between the two. Instead of helping her, Zach makes the situation worse.

Hannah's hobby is to write poems. Through the poem, Hannah is able to express herself and reduce stress. Ryan Shaver, a member of the school newspapers shares

private poems, but publishes one of Hannah's private poem. He steals the poem of Hannah's and published it, taking away Hannah's pride to write poetry.

Clay Jensen, the co-narrator is the ninth one on the thirteen reasons why Hannah decides to commit suicide. This is the most significant section because Hannah could have survived from her pain. Clay had a secret crush on Hannah and Hannah fell in love with Clay. However, Hannah was unable to manage her emotions towards everything and acted cruelly to Clay. Unlike the other characters, Clay is on the list because Hannah regrets not being able to know Clay. On the other hand, Clay feels guilty not being able to be on Hannah's side. At a school party, after Hannah kissed Clay and pushing him back away, if Clay did not leave, Clay keeps believing that Hannah would have had a reason to survive. Clay goes through all the points that are listed on the tape to have a flashback of Hannah. Clay regrets and suffers through guilt.

After the party with Clay, Hannah is walking back. Jenny Kurtz, a cheerleader spots her and asks if Hannah needs a ride since Hannah is drunk. Jenny hits a stop side and resists to contact anyone. Hannah gets kicked out of the car and witnesses an old man getting injured and the death of a high school student peer. One night there was an after party of Courtney's and Bryce Walker had invited her. She did not want to go to the party because Courtney was hosting it but then decided to go as the last party Hannah would attend. At the party, Hannah engages in a manual sex with Bryce. After this activity Hannah forces herself to conclude to committing suicide.

The last person Hannah relied to was her English teacher and counselor. She hesitates to ask the counselor for help but goes to him. Hannah does not easily discuss the events that occurred to make her life miserable. However after the counselor asking

questions, Hannah speaks up. Though she is at the counselors, she does not gain any advice. When Hannah leaves the office because of anger, the counselor does not stop her. This is when Hannah figures out it is the correct decision to commit suicide.

Through the tapes, Hannah expresses her pain, thoughts, and expressions towards each person. She explains how each reflected a reason to take Hannah's life away from her. Through the tapes, Clay realizes that nobody knows what will happen to someone, therefore each person should be cared with love. At the end of the novel, Clay approaches to talk to somebody he met but never talked to. Clay is able to learn through the tapes.

## Character List

*As the book has never mentioned about characters' physical appearance, all the physical descriptions were inferred by the writer of this page.*

### **Hannah Baker**

A beautiful girl, who became an outcast in her school, due to numerous rumors. She has a beautiful body and a face with a long hair, which gets shorter later. She has a really weak mental state, which led her to commit suicide. She can't bear criticism from other people and afraid of getting betrayed by people.

### **Clay Jensen**

A narrator, who only has a good reputation, just like his handsome appearance. He lacks confidence in himself and really shy. Thus even when he liked Hannah, he couldn't confess it and after Hannah committed suicide, he regretted his hesitation.

### **Tony**

Clay Jensen's close friend, the first one that knows about the tapes from Hannah. Although his appearance is normal and not as handsome as Clay, he is one of the most trustworthy character, who always keep promises that he makes. Even after Hannah committed suicide, Tony kept the promise with Hannah and followed thirteen people on the list.



**Justin Foley**

Justin Foley is a good looking guy, who is really famous among the girls in the high school. Hannah had her first kiss with Justin Foley but as he is a cunning liar, who spread out a rumor saying that they did more than just a kiss, it critically affects Hannah's reputation. Also as he has a weak and undetermined mind, when his friend rapes Jessica, Justin doesn't stop his friend from raping her.

**Alex Standall**

Justin Standall is one of the first friend that Hannah meets in the school. He is not as handsome as Justin but not a bad looking guy. He has a child-like mind; just to get more attention from Jessica, who he likes, he makes a list of the "Hottest Ass in the Freshman Class."

**Jessica Davis**

Just like Justin Standall, she is one of the first friend that Hannah meets in the school. Just like Hannah, she is really pretty girl and that's why many boys like her. However she is full of jealousy. When Hannah was on the list of the "Hottest Ass" and heard that she had an affair with Alex, she started to envy Hannah and slapped Hannah's face.

**Tyler Down**

He keep takes pictures of Hannah, while she was in her house. Due to him, Hannah lost her privacy and became even more lonely. Tyler has a short height with shy and

disagreeable appearance. He is extremely introverted person who only cares about taking pictures with his camera.

### **Courtney Crimsen**

In her school, Courtney Crimsen is a perfect girl, who is both kind and beautiful. However, when her beautiful appearance might be truth, she is not kind nor generous girl. In fact, she is a person who consider other people as a tool to make her look better.

### **Marcus Cooley**

Marcus Cooley is a naughty boy with a tough-looking face with tall height. He likes to play with other people's mind and doesn't consider promise as important as it should be. On the Valentine's day, he promised with Hannah to go out, but he came 40 minutes late to the place. And later, he bullies Hannah by forcefully touching her body.

### **Zach Dempsey**

Zach Dempsey is a thin and skinny boy, who is one of Clay's close friends. He is the most child-like character in the novel. When Hannah ignored Zach, as she was so depressed, Zach started to avenge Hannah by stealing the notes from other people to Hannah. As the notes really encouraged Hannah, Hannah struggled in despair.

**Ryan Shaver**

Ryan Shaver is a student who is really good at writing poems. He is a nerd-looking boy with nerd-like mind. He doesn't care about other people and do whatever he can do to publish a good poem. So he steals Hannah's poem and publishes it in his magazine.

**Jenny Kurtz**

Jenny Kurtz is a skinny but normal looking cheerleader. She is extremely irresponsible and selfish. When a person died, due to her mistake, all she did was ignoring and pretending as if she had done nothing wrong.

## Major Character Analysis

### Hannah Baker

Hannah Baker is an attractive and pretty girl with a long hair. She used to be a ordinary new student in freshman until she had her first kiss with a boy called Justin. Although all she did with Justin was a kiss, Justin spread a wrong rumor that they did something more just a kiss. Due to this rumor, her reputation started to fall and when Hannah's friend, Alex made a list of the "Hottest Ass in the Freshman Class" and put Hannah's name on the list, her reputation drastically fall down. Due to the rumor and the list, she became an outcast and many terrible incidents started to happen in her life. As Hannah baker is a normal girl with a weak and fragile mental state, she slowly thought about committing suicide. When she lost all of her friends and sexually harassed for the second time, her will to continue living collapsed and she made up her mind to commit suicide.

### Clay Jensen

Clay Jensen is the narrator of the novel, who only has a good reputation, just like his handsome appearance. In the novel, he is a model student who is always polite, kind, and sincere. Also he is such an emotional and tenderhearted boy, who truly grieved Hannah's death. Although he has a cautious characteristic, sometimes that caution caused him to hesitate for too long that he ended up not doing what he supposed to do. In the novel, he slowly and carefully approached to Hannah. And when she rejected him, he cautiously stepped back for the next chance. However, there wasn't

any next chance, as Hannah committed suicide. So Clay regretted his hesitation, and recalled that if he had been more firmed, he could have saved Hannah.

## Important Quotations

### Page 48, Paragraph 1

*“Best Ass in the Freshman Class, Wally. Standing right here in your store!”*

When Hannah was in Wally’s candy shop, Bryce Walker came into the store and smacked Hannah’s butt and shouted out the quote above. Since the rumor that Hannah and Justin did more than a kiss at the midnight in playground and the list of the “Best Ass”, which obviously had Hannah’s name on the list, Hannah became an outcast in her school and town. Due to that incorrect and unreasonable rumors, students started to think Hannah as a symbol of sexual model. This incident was the first indication that actually expressed by students think about Hannah. As a result, this quote reflects the theme of the “Rumor,” where rumors negatively affect innocent people. Although all Hannah did was a short sweet kiss, it affected Hannah more and more that at the end, she committed suicide.

### Page 66, Paragraph 2

*“You can hear rumors, ... but you can’t know them.”*

Even Hannah’s the closest friend, Jessica, believed the rumors about her and started to accuse Hannah that she took away Jessica’s boy friend, Alex. Due to the rumors that Hannah had relationship with Justin, Hannah’s reputation fall. However, when Alex started the list of the “Hottest Ass”, Hannah’s image solidly settled as a perverted girl. Thus when Hannah realized that even her the closest friend no longer

trust her but rumors, she deeply felt betrayal, which reflects the theme of betrayal followed by the theme of rumors. Due to the rumors, Hannah's friend started to betray Hannah in order to maintain their reputation. And when they rejected and betrayed Hannah, it made a deep scar in Hannah's mind. Through the quote, Hannah expressed her sorrow and eagerness to reveal the truth. However, Jessica responded with slapping Hannah's face and Hannah lost her last friend.

**Page 117, Paragraph 6**

*"Find another ride,"*

After getting betrayed by her two best friends, Jessica and Alex, Hannah seemed to find a new good friend, Courtney Crimsen. Courtney went to Hannah's house when Hannah needed help and during a 5 minute break, Courtney was the only that Hannah could easily talk to. However, Hannah soon realized that Courtney's behavior is extremely ambivalence. Only in front of other students, she was really nice to Hannah and when only two were in the hall, Courtney didn't even say hi or bye to Hannah and just pass by her. Courtney did all of these just to show up herself in front of other students by expressing a sympathy for Hannah, the outcast. By doing so, her reputation will rise and other students will respect Courtney, a generous and courteous girl who even cares about 'that' Hannah Baker. Before Hannah fully understands Courtney's intent, Courtney asked Hannah to go to a party with her on Hannah's car. And when Hannah arrived the party, she completely realized that for Courtney, she is nothing more than a driver, who can only make

Courtney to show up. As soon as they arrived the party place, Courtney left Hannah behind and went to a group of guys, after telling Hannah not to leave party without her, “You are my ride, remember?”. In the party, Hannah was alone with no one else to talk to and deeply thought that she was used by Courtney. So in a revenge for using her as a tool, Hannah left Courtney in the party after saying the quote above. Thus the quote portrays the theme of revenge. After being an outcast and bullied for several times, Hannah realized that she can no longer behave in the way that she used to do so far. So she started to act strongly in order to change people’s perspective toward her. Unlike before, she actually stepped out and argued. However, this turned out to be a failure, as no one trusted her, which lead Hannah to slowly come up with the idea of committing suicide.

**Page 231, Paragraph 1**

*“You didn’t rape her. And I didn’t rape her. He did. But you... and I... we let it happen. It’s our fault.”*

In Hannah’s second party, she observed a terrible scene, where her friend, Jessica, was raped by Bryce Walker, another high schooler who was known as a Casanova. When the incident was going on, Hannah hid inside the closet in the room and didn’t even make a sound. Also another witness, Justin, connived Bryce, by not stopping him from entering the room. Long after the incident, through the tape, Hannah told the above quote to Justin, which was what she had wanted to tell him when he was in the depths of despair under extreme shame. This reflects the theme of regretting the



past. Through the tapes, Hannah honestly confessed that she should have stepped up and protected Jessica from being raped by Bryce. On top of this, she blamed Justin and herself as suspects of raping Jessica, as when they could have stopped the incident, they didn't. Thus she greatly regretted what she had done on the past in that closet; afraid of Bryce, only thought about her own safety and ignored her friend, Jessica.

**Page 245, Paragraph 7**

*"They'll trace it. They can trace phone calls, Hannah."*

After a party, Hannah asked a ride for Jenny, who was drunk. On their way to home, as Jenny was drunk, she accidentally bumped into a 'stop' sign on a street. Hannah thought that they should call the police or someone in order to fix the sign. However, Jenny just kicked Hannah out from the car and ran away after saying the above quote. Hannah extremely worried that someone might get hurt due to the lack of sign, but realized that she could do nothing but to walk towards her home. Few hours later, two people died in that spot due to the absence of the stop sign. One was an old man and the other was Hannah's high school student. Jenny, the cause of the incident didn't even appear on that student's funeral but instead, she fixed her car before anyone noticed it and pretended as if she had done nothing wrong. Thus this quote reflects the theme of selfishness. At first, when Jenny hits the sign, even before worrying about other people who might get hurt due to the absence of sign or regretting what she had done, she cared about running away and not be seen by

anyone. When Hannah worried about the stop sign and asked Jenny, her cell phone, to call the police, Jenny refused Hannah's request after saying the quote above. Jenny only thought about disadvantages that she would get by calling the police and didn't even thought about any factor that can be harmful for other people due to the absence of the sign. She was being extremely selfish, and because of that selfishness, two innocent people were sacrificed.

# Themes and Symbols

## Theme 1: Rumors affect individual's life

### *Example 1*

One of the most significant part where the theme of Rumor is implied is where Hannah's rumor starts and starts to grow. Hannah foresees that the rumors will get bigger, but the rumors were too small to make a big deal out of. The rumors started with Hannah's first kiss. Hannah, after having her first kiss with Justin Foley, says, "I know. I know what you're thinking. As I was telling the story, I was thinking the same thing myself. A kiss? A rumor based on a kiss made you do this to yourself?"(Asher 30). This quote means that the kiss was the primary factor that started everything. After she was "accused" for having the best butt of her class, people wanted to take advantage of her and even if it started out as small as a rumor about a kiss, eventually it got bigger, which caused Hannah to commit suicide.

### *Analysis 1*

A rumor based on a kiss, which started out small, became something that could not be ignored. It spread with emphasis and because of the rumor, Hannah became extremely upset. She mentions how the rumors about the kiss was not that significant, but when it started to spread with more details and when others started to feel as if they can get to Hannah very easily, it was the starting point of all the new rumors and also the start of where people started to look at Hannah, not for being herself, but for being what the rumors described of her.

### *Example 2*

The rumors started at one point, but it is also important on how the rumors spread and how it affected Hannah. The rumors started off with a kiss that Hannah had with Justin Foley, but progresses on like a snowball. Hannah even mentions the fact that she thinks that the rumors are going to get bigger and bigger: "... And sometimes, a rumor based on a kiss has a snowball effect." (Asher 31). As the story in the book progresses, the rumors become overly known and the consequences were that she was being treated like her rumor. When Hannah analyzes the actions of "Jack-ass Jimmy" in a store, where he grabbed Hannah's butt, she says, "Statement Number on: 'I'm only playing.' Translation: Your ass is my play-toy ..."(51). Like this, here reputations starts to become how she is treated like by others, which is a huge contribution to Hannah's decision to commit suicide.

### *Analysis 2*

Hannah wants people to treat her and understand her. This is not happening because of how her rumors affect on the behavior of other's towards her. Hannah says, "I wanted people to trust me, despite anything they'd heard. And more than that, I wanted them to know me. Not the stuff they thought they knew about me. No, the real me. I wanted to them to get past the rumors. To see beyond the relationships I once had, or maybe still had but that they didn't agree with"(Asher 135). This means that she wanted people to see her as a person and to understand her feelings as well as to respecting them, instead of judging and thinking of her as only as her rumors. The rumors covered up Hannah's personality, and that is not what Hannah wanted.

## Theme 2: Betrayal of the trusted ones

### *Example 1*

Courtney, who ignores Hannah for a while in the halls and in private, starts to act friendly to Hannah all of a sudden. Hannah, being curious of why Courtney was being friendly all of a sudden, asks, “I asked why you wanted to hang out after ignoring me for so long. But of course, you denied ignoring me at all” (Asher 100). Then, Courtney asks Hannah to go to a party together and decides to ride Hannah’s car. Hannah starts to realize that Courtney was using Hannah for a ride and nothing else. “I wanted to be wrong about you, Courtney... I wanted you to see it as me picking you up so we could go to a party together. And that is very different from me giving you a lift”(101). This quote says that Hannah was upset for the fact that Courtney used Hannah for her ride instead of wanting her as a real company. Then, as Hannah is about to leave, Courtney tries to stop Hannah, but Hannah refuses. “Courtney begged me to stay... ‘Find another ride,’ I said. And I left”(117).

### *Analysis 1*

Hannah felt betrayal because Courtney used Hannah as her driver to a party instead of attending it as friends. When Courtney asked Hannah to go to a party with her, Hannah actually felt happy even though she had doubts. However, by realizing the fact that Courtney was only using Hannah to give her a ride, Hannah gets very upset. This represents betrayal because Hannah didn’t think of Courtney as a girl who would do such a thing, but because Courtney did, Hannah lost trust in the people who she interacted with.

### *Example 2*

Hannah was close to Jessica Davis, a cheerleader, in the beginning of the book, but later on in the book, Jessica betrays Hannah because of Alex. Jessica and Hannah was actually introduced by a teacher named Ms. Antilly. Jessica and Hannah got very close and Hannah mentions how she “... walked past the street where she lived in order to keep talking with me”(Asher 58). They were interested in each other and had a bond of friendship. “At that moment I would have paid dearly for Jessica’s friendship”(61). Then, their friend ship started to break down after Alex, who was Jessica’s ex-boyfriend chose over Jessica for being the hot girl. “‘Hannah’ she said, ‘I don’t care that he picked you over me’”(65). The scene turned out into violence because Jessica hit Hannah in the face: “She rose up beside her chair-glared down at me-and swung”(Asher 67). Then, as the story progressed to a point where they were were basically enemies, Jessica matches Hannah up with Marcus, using the Valentines survey game. This event is significant because Hannah almost gets raped by Marcus at the back of the Rosie’s Diner.

### *Analysis 2*

Hannah and Jessica becomes very friendly in the beginning while Jessica and Alex are going out. However, when Jessica breaks up with Alex, he chooses Hannah as the hottest girl in his class for revenge. This causes Hannah and Jessica to become enemies and eventually Jessica betrays Hannah by matching her up with Marcus. Jessica basically wanted Hannah to get raped by Marcus and therefore, it represents betrayal because they were both close friends and because of the things that other people did, without Hannah even wanting to happen, Jessica betrays Hannah’s friendship and tries to seek revenge.

## Symbol 1: Cassette Tapes

### - Revenge

#### *Example*

Cassette tapes are the object that starts out the whole book and drives the narrator, Clay Jenson into realizing who was involved in the death of Hannah Baker and how they were involved in her death. The cassette tapes were sent by Hannah Baker, to reveal what derived her to committing suicide. The cassette tapes symbolizes revenge. The cassette tapes make the people on the list scared and feel regret towards what they have done and because Hannah sent this tape to the people, it makes the people uncomfortable. It basically lets them know that they were a cause of a person's death. In the beginning of the book, Hannah says, "I hope you're ready, because I'm about to tell you the story of my life. More specifically, why my life ended. And if you're listening to these tapes, you're one of the reasons why"(Asher 8). This quote basically, before the story even starts, mentions how the tapes are for the people who contributed in the death of Hannah Baker, which makes Clay Jenson feel worried and scared. Hannah wants those people to acknowledge the fact that they basically committed "murder," instead of denying the fact they did so. Hannah, in her tapes also says, "on: you listen. Number two: You pass it on. ... In case you're attempted to break the rules, understand that I did make a copy of these tapes. Those copies will be released in a very public manner if this package doesn't make it though all of you"(10). This is a threat to the people who contributed to Hannah's death because Hannah demands the people to listen to the cause of her death to make them feel sorry. Therefore, the cassette tapes represents revenge.

### *Analysis*

Revenge was characterized from the cassette tapes because that is exactly what Hannah wanted to do to the people who had things to do with her death. In the beginning of the book, Clay Jenson, the narrator, says, “My stomach squeezes in on itself, ready to make me throw up if I let it” (Asher 10). This quote gave an idea on how the people who received the tapes felt, and by the reaction of Clay Jenson, one can really tell how bad it feels to receive such a cassette tape from a person who committed suicide.

### **- Truth**

#### *Example*

The Cassette tape also symbolizes the truth. In a world where Hannah is in, very lonely and cold, the rumors and lies about her deceive the people from looking at the absolute truth and the true story about Hannah and her life. Therefore, Hannah was very upset and alone, with nobody to trust. Everything started out from a small rumor about a kiss, but grew larger and larger, which eventually became something that Hannah couldn't ignore. “...A rumor based on a kiss ruined a memory that I hoped to be special. A rumor based on a kiss started a reputation that other people believed in and reacted to. And sometimes, a rumor based on a kiss has a snowball effect” (Asher 30-31). This quote was mentioning how the rumor started out small, but like a snowball, got bigger and bigger into a lie that was so big, that it became a serious issue for Hannah. The cassette tape was the only thing Hannah had left to prove the rumors wrong and tell the people the true side of Hannah and how she really felt as well as who she really was. In retrospect, the cassette



tape was the only way the people found out the truth about Hannah, which means that the cassette tapes also represents truth.

### *Analysis*

Hannah, being covered in rumors, doesn't really try to prove that the rumors are wrong because she says, "... And everyone knows you can't disprove a rumor"(Asher 30). She basically had no opportunity to do so because nobody listened to her, and only treated her as if she was how the rumor described she was like. So, before she died, nobody really cared about what she said and weren't interested in who she really was, deceived by all the stories that were told about her. However, after her death, through the cassette tapes the truth of the reason to her death was told and people actually listened because they were afraid.

## **Symbol 2: Hannah's butt**

### **- Death**

#### *Example*

Although this may seem like an inappropriate symbol, it plays such a big part in the book, that it cannot be ignored. Hannah was recognized for her butt and nothing more in the beginning, which really upset her and started the whole rumors around school. Hannah, was nominated to have the best butt in her Freshman class by the people in her class on a small list that was created as a joke. However, Hannah takes it seriously and says, "Maybe some people think you were right in choosing me. I don't think so. But let me put it this way, I don't think my ass-as you call it-was the deciding factor"(Asher 41).

This quote tells the listeners of the tape on how the rumors started, and because of this rumor, people viewed Hannah only as the one with the hottest butt in the class, instead of who she really was.

### *Analysis*

Hannah's butt represents death because the rumors, which eventually caused Hannah to commit suicide, starts because of how everyone views her butt. However, Hannah's butt is not what is significant here. It's what others thought about her butt that affected on how the others viewed Hannah. As she was chosen to have the best butt in Freshmen class, people started to look for Hannah for only her butt and not for who she was. People started to take advantage of the fact that she was a girl and started to try to get her to sleep with them because then, the person who had slept with her would be the one to sleep with the girl with the best butt in Freshmen class. Hannah, being taken advantage of and basically viewed for only her butt, couldn't take it anymore in the end, and decides to commit suicide. Her butt starts the rumors, which leads to her death and therefore, her butt is the cause of her death.

### **- Ignorance**

#### *Example*

Hannah's butt represent ignorance, but her butt also represents the reason why people treated her without caring about how she felt. Since she was titled for having the best butt in the class, people only looked at her behind and liked her because of it. The night she was at the "Blue Spot," where they sold Hannah's favorite candies, a guy, with a

nickname of “Jack-ass Jimmy,” came in the store and grabbed Hannah’s butt. “My backpack was resting on the counter while I zipped it shut. Wally’s eyes were focused down, just beyond the edge of the counter, near my waist, and I knew what was coming. A cupped hand smacked my ass” (Asher 47-48). This shows that the guy obviously didn’t care about how hannah felt, but hit her butt because of the list that mentioned about how Hannah’s butt is the best on in Freshmen class. Hannah’s butt obviously got her into this mess, and therefore, her butt symbolizes ignorance.

### *Analysis*

People, knowing that Hannah has the best butt in the Freshmen class, only hangs out with her and want to sleep with her because of her butt. Hannah repeatedly mentions that she wants to be viewed for who she is and not for her rumors, but nobody really cares about what she thinks. People view her for her butt and nothing else, which means that people are ignoring how Hannah really feels. Hannah says, “But what happens when someone says you have the best ass in the freshman class? Let me tell you, Alex, because you’ll never know. It gives people-some people- the go-ahead to treat you like you’re nothing but that specific body part”(Asher 44). This quote says that people ignored her as a person and saw her only as her butt.

## Chapter Summaries

### Prologue

The setting of prologue takes place after all the incidents. Clay Jensen, the narrator is at the post office, mailing the cassette tapes. The cassette tapes belong to Hannah Baker, who has recently committed suicide. Clay is going through a hard time in this part of the novel because of what has just happened to him. He has finished listening to Hannah's tape and has a lot of thoughts about Hannah. Then the setting shifts to time when Clay first received the shoebox of tapes. At first, he is puzzled because the shoebox with seven tapes does not have return address. He goes into the garage because there is a stereo on the workbench and he can listen to the cassette tapes.

### Cassette 1

Hannah says hi to the audience in the tape. She tells the audience that she is about to tell the story of her life and why it ended. She gives two directions: listen and pass it on. She goes on to talk about Justin Foley, a senior, who was her first kiss. Clay Jensen, being the one of the thirteen names on the list, follows Hannah's directions and goes to the places that she wants him to go. Hannah talks about when she first came to Crestmont. Her friend, Kat's boyfriend was Justin and Hannah fell for him. Kat leaves the town and Hannah and Justin become close friends. Hannah fantasizes about first kiss with Justin in Eisenhower Park for many days. One day, they actually kiss, but the rumors start. Justin brags to his friends and Hannah gains reputation of being an easy

girl. Everyone in high school believe that she has done more than just kiss with Justin. That is the end of her first kiss. Then Hannah talks about Alex Standall, the boy who put her name as the “Hottest Ass in the Freshman Class.” She knows that Alex put her name on the list just because Hannah has a perverted image after the rumors. When she goes to Blue Spot Liquor, she gets sexually harassed by Jimmy, who is another student in her high school.

## **Cassette 2**

Hannah continues her narration by talking about Jessica Davis, one of her first friends in school. Ms. Antilly, the counselor, pairs Hannah and Jessica to be friends. Even though they are awkward at first, they get to be best friends. They hang out at Monet’s Garden and even become friends with Alex Standall. However, when Alex makes “Who is Hot and Who is Not” list, Jessica becomes disappointed. She had a relationship with Alex, but after finding out that Alex put her on the “Not” column and Hannah on the “Hot” column, she gets angry at Hannah. Even though Hannah explains how that list is just a joke and the rumors about her are not true, Jessica does not believe her. Just when Hannah is about to accept the blame for Jessica and Alex breaking up, Jessica hits Hannah’s face and leaves permanent scar above Hannah’s eyebrow. Hannah realizes that Jessica has betrayed her. Hannah goes on by explaining an incident with Tyler Down, who has almost no existence in school. He is in yearbook club and that is why he has all sorts of different types of camera lenses. When she records this tape, she is in front of Tyler’s house, doing exactly what he has done to her in the past. In the past, Tyler, somehow, figures out that Hannah’s parents would be out of the town for several

days. Therefore, he sneaks in front of Hannah's bedroom window and takes pictures. Hannah soon finds out that someone is stalking her in her bedroom. She tells the other girl, Courtney Crimsen in her school about the "Peeping Tom" incident. Courtney seems to be excited and plans on visiting Hannah's house when Peeping Tom appears again. They meet up in Hannah's house and they sense Tyler at the window. For fun, they do suspicious things to make Tyler excited. Then they run to the window and find out that it has been Tyler the whole time. Hannah then narrates that he has taken away what was left to her: privacy in her own house.

### **Cassette 3**

Courtney Crimsen appears in the third tape. Courtney is one of the flirty and pretty high school girl who cares a lot about her reputation. One day, she comes up to Hannah and asks if they can go to the party together. Hannah finds this strange because they do not even talk to each other at school. Then she finds out that Courtney is only talking to her so that her reputation becomes good and that she can ride Hannah's car to the party. When they get to the party, Courtney leaves Hannah and hangs out with her friends. Courtney sends a cute guy to Hannah to make herself feel better about abandoning Hannah at the party. Hannah sees Tyler and asks him to take a picture of her and Courtney. Courtney does not look happy about it because Courtney only calls Hannah to the party for the ride, not to make memories. After, Hannah leaves the party, feeling betrayed and abandoned. The second part of Cassette 3 starts with introduction of "Oh My Dollar Valentines" Survey. The purpose of the survey is to fundraise money for Cheer Camp. The survey finds each person's perfect date for Valentine's Day. After

Hannah submits her survey, she receives five male students' name. Marcus Cooley calls her and say that she is on the list, as well. They decide to meet up at Rosie's Diner, but Hannah gets stood up. Marcus appears later that day and apologizes. They sit together and suddenly he touches Hannah's leg. She looks around and sees that no one is there to help her out. She pushes Marcus off the chair and starts thinking about killing herself.

#### **Cassette 4**

Hannah starts Cassette 4 by mentioning Peer Communications, which is one of her classes in school. In this class, students have their own paper bags that others can put notes when they cannot say things directly. Hannah realizes that she is not getting any notes from her classmates. She gets a feeling that someone is stealing her notes and finds out that it has been Zach Dempsey all along. He was with Marcus when Hannah pushed Marcus off the table. Zach offered assistance but got ignored by Hannah. Then he chooses the most childish way to get back at Hannah. He steals her compliment notes when Hannah has been in severe conditions. Even when Hannah witnesses Zach stealing her notes, he does not apologize and walks away. Then she cries why he stole her letters. The second part of the tape is about Ryan Shaver, the editor of a school news paper. Hannah and Ryan met together in poetry meeting held in local library. They become quite close and share their poetry notes. Finally, it seems like Hannah has found someone who can share similar thoughts and elaborate on fascinating topics. However, Ryan steals her notebook, print her poetry, and let other people to ridicule her poem. Hannah feels even more betrayed after this incident because she thinks at least her inner thoughts are supposed to be protected.

## **Chapter 5**

In Cassette 5, Clay is the main character. Hannah becomes interested in Clay because of his positive reputation and kind personality. However, at this point, she is unable to trust anyone. They meet at Courtney Crimsen's party and start to have conversation. She finally finds out someone who she can rely on and kisses him. Before they moved on to next step, Hannah thinks about Justin and how her first kiss was a disaster. She stops and tells Clay to get out of the room. Clay is in the tape because Hannah regrets the fact that she has been unable to know Clay better as she wanted to. Clay also feels regret because he could have been the one to save Hannah from the rumors and really get to understand her. In the next part, Justin Foley and Jessica Davis come into the room where Hannah is in. Hannah hides in the closet and Bryce Davis comes into the room as well. Justin lets Bryce to rape Jessica and leaves the room. Hannah feels terribly guilty because she has not been able to help Jessica.

## **Cassette 6**

Hannah continues the story about that night by mentioning Jenny Kurtz's name. She is the one who put Marcus and Hannah together for Valentine's Day. Jenny offers Hannah a ride home and on the way, Jenny hits a stop sign. Even though Hannah tells Jenny to report to the police, Jenny refuses to do so. Hannah continues asking Jenny to park the car, then Jenny kicks her out of the car. Without the stop sign, a senior citizen is run over and a senior student in Hannah's school dies. His death makes Hannah to think about her own death more and more. She wonders who would come to the funeral and



what they would say. In the second part of the tape, she finally decides that suicide is the only answer for everything. She thinks about how to commit suicide, giving ideas like shooting herself, taking pills, and hanging herself. She decides to take pills tomorrow and walks to the post office. She is about to send the tapes to Justin Foley. Then she thinks about what has happened last weekend. She is at the new party even though she is grounded. She meets Bryce and goes to hot tub. They start to get relaxed and touch each other. Even though Bryce tries to do inappropriate things to Hannah, Hannah does not even reject him. She let him do whatever he wanted to do to her. When Bryce finished his thing, Hannah claims that she was finished that night, too. After losing her virginity to such meaningless boy, Hannah is done with everything.

### **Cassette 7**

In this cassette tape, Hannah gives herself one more chance by seeking for help. She decides to talk to Mr. Porter. She puts the tape recorder into her bag and enters Mr. Porter's room. Hannah hinted to Mr. Porter about her plans to commit suicide.

However, he gives Hannah two solutions: talking to Bryce face to face or move on. After hearing Mr. Porter's solution, Hannah hurries and goes out of the room. She thinks she is done here with that answer. Even after Hannah closes the door, Mr. Porter does not bother to follow up properly. His poor advice is the last straw for Hannah. She finishes the cassette 7 side A with "I'm sorry." Then on side B, she only says, "Thank you."

## **Epilogue**

After Clay is done with the tapes, he finds it extremely difficult to live a normal life. He is painful whenever he sees Hannah's empty desk in the classroom. Then he sees Skye from the other corner in the hall. She is a shy girl who reminds Clay of Hannah. Last time Clay had a conversation with Hannah, she was on the verge of crashing down. He could not help prevent Hannah's death. As he follows Skye, he calls her name.

## Chapter Study Questions

### Prologue

*1. How did Clay Jenson react to the box of Tapes?*

Clay is obviously scared and panics in the beginning because of the box of tapes. “My stomach squeezes in on itself, ready to make me throw up if I let it”(Asher 10). He is scared and says, “tears sting at the corners of my eyes”(16). This shows how he is really frightened and is about to cry.

*2. What were Clay’s main worries when he first opened the box of tapes?*

Clay’s worries were that his parents will find out: “Trough the garage door, Mom calls my name. I lower the volume, ready to hit Stop if it opens”(Asher 20). and that the public will find out: “Hannah said that she made a copy of each of these tapes”(16).

*3. How did Clay feel about being one of the people on Hannah Baker’s list?*

He felt as if he wasn’t supposed to be on the list because he felt like he barely knew Hannah Baker: “I hardly knew Hannah baker... The tapes shouldn’t be here. Not with me. It has to be a mistake”(Asher 10).

## Cassette 1

### *4. What was the cause of the start of Hannah's reputation?*

The cause of the start of Hannah's reputation was by caused her kiss with Justin. Although it was just a simple kiss with him, Justin spread out a rumor saying that they did more than just a kiss. And this ruined Hannah's reputation, as she was a new student to the school and students didn't really know who Hannah was. On page 30, Hannah stated that, "A rumor based on a kiss started a reputation that other people believed in and reacted to. And sometimes, a rumor based on a kiss has a snowball effect. A rumor based on a kiss, is just the beginning."

### *5. How does Hannah take these rumors and deal with them?*

In the beginning Hannah reacted toward the rumors with indifference. However, as the time past, she began to take the rumors seriously as she said, "A rumor based on a kiss has a snowball effect." (31) Snowball effect, meaning that something that started from an insignificant event turned out to be some thing that is in-ignorable. So this tell us that rumors that she didn't care about eventually greatly affected her to a point where she had to take the rumors seriously.

### *6. Which part of Alex's list is Hannah listed on? How does this affect her both personally and how others treat her?*

Hannah was on the list of the "Best Ass in the Freshman Class". And she worried that this would make her image to be an even more 'perverted' one after the rumors with Justin. In

a response to what she had worried, other people started to sexually harass Hannah. For example, when Hannah was in Wally's candy shop, buying candy, Bryce entered the shop. "Best Ass in the Freshman Class, Wally. Standing right here in your shop!"(48). He shouted this out as soon as he smacked Hannah's butt. As a result, Alex's list solidified Hannah's image as a perverted girl, who likes to kiss with boys and show up her figure.

## **Cassette 2**

### *7. What was the relationship between Jessica, Alex and Hannah?*

Jessica, Alex, and Hannah used to have a good relationship, but they claimed that they had never been actual friend. "I never thought of Jessica or Alex as friends. Not even at the beginning when I would've loved two automatic friendships. And I know they felt the same way,..."(62). However, even that good relationship broke down when Alex wrote Hannah's name on the list of the "Best Ass in the Freshman Class". Due to the list, Hannah and Alex's relationship ended and it caused Jessica to envy Hannah. At the end, Jessica slapped Hannah's face and even Hannah and Jessica's relationship ends.

### *8. What does Tyler take away from Hannah? Why was taking that away significant for Hannah?*

Tyler took away Hannah's privacy and her safety place. Due to the rumors and the list, Hannah felt uncomfortable in school and town. So her home was the only place to that she can enjoy freedom and feel comfortable. However, due to Tyler, Hannah lost those freedom and security. "... you took away what was left."(89). For Hannah, her home was

the last place that she could rest, but due to the incident, she started to feel even less secure and more loneliness.

*9. Who helps Hannah find Tyler? Why does he or she help?*

Courtney Crimsen helped Hannah to find Tyler. Courtney Crimsen is known to be a perfect girl who is kind to everyone. However, she just pretended to be a good girl, but in fact, she ignored Hannah and was just using her. All she wanted to achieve was to increase her reputation in the school by helping an outcast, Hannah. And later Hannah realized that Courtney was just using her. “And yet the whole time Courtney was using me, ...” (110).

**Cassette 3**

*10. Does Courtney act differently to Hannah? If so, Why?*

Courtney, ignores Hannah at first, but starts to become friendly all of a sudden. “*I asked why you wanted to hang out after ignoring me for so long. But of course, you denied ignoring me at all.*”(Asher 100). Then, Hannah realizes that Courtney was using her for a ride to attend the party. “*Courtney begged me to stay... ‘Find another ride,’ I said. And I left.*”(117).

*11. What was the event the cheerleaders came up with? What is the significance of the event?*

The event that the cheerleaders came up with was the Valentines Survey, where people got matched up with different sexes for a date. This is significant because Hannah gets

matched up with Marcus and almost gets raped in the Rosie's where they planned to meet.

*12. When Marcus wanted to meet Hannah at the Diner, do they both take it seriously?*

When Marcus wanted to meet Hannah at the Diner, Hannah simply takes it as a joke. “*Apparently, he thought we were joking about the date*”(Asher 140). Hannah thought they were meeting for sure, but Marcus actually thought it was a joke.

#### **Cassette 4**

*13. Does Hannah show any sign of thinking differently than she did before? How?*

Hannah, due to Tyler, who took photos of her private life, started to mention how she had no privacy wherever she went. she says, “*But school hadn't been a safe haven for a long time. And after your photo escapades, Tyler, my home was no longer secure*” (Asher 192). This was important because it was when Hannah notices that she has no privacy, even in her home.

*14. Why does Clay lie to his mom, continuously?*

Clay continues to tell his mom that he was at his friends for a project and that he is going to go home soon because he doesn't want his mom to know that he has a cassette and is listening to a suicide note.

15. *Why does Hannah continue to write poems when her Poems got revealed to the public and was embarrassed by the fact that they did.*

Hannah keeps on writing poems, even if they were taken advantage of because it was the only way Hannah expressed her feelings. “*And honestly, there is no better way to explore your emotions than with poetry*”(Asher 176). Poetry was the only way she explore her feelings, and so even if it was taken away from her, she still continued writing poetry.

### **Cassette 5**

16. *How does going to Rosie’s Diner affect Clay Jenson?*

By going to the Rosie’s Diner, Clay feels the way Hannah Baker felt. Going to the Rosie’s made Clay realize how Hannah felt because he was tracing Hanna’s trails.

17. *How does Clay take in and react to the events and names that have come up in the cassettes so far?*

Clay, as he listens to the cassettes, he feels devastated. As he is listening to the tapes, even the worker at Rosie’s denies his money because he seems to be having a hard day. the guy says, “... but something’s clearly gone wrong in your life, so I want you to keep your money”(Asher 192).

18. *How does Clay Jenson feel guilty towards Hannah?*

Clay feels guilty towards Hannah because he could’ve been the one to stop Hannah from committing suicide for getting to know her better and being the one to be there for her,



but instead, Clay acted as if he had nothing to do with Hannah Baker. "... Why, whenever anyone saw us, did I pretend it meant nothing?"(Asher 180).

## Cassette 6

*19. How did Clay feel when he found out that Tony was waiting for him in the car, outside of Rosie's?*

Clay, after listening to the tapes, didn't want to talk to anyone, but he approaches Tony, which can mean that the tapes were too much for Clay to handle. Clay felt like he needed to ask for advise and a friend who he can speak to.

*20. How does Hannah feel while Clay kisses Hannah according to the cassette tapes?*

Hannah thinks about Clay's friend; Justin Foley. She thinks that if she continues kissing Clay, then he might betray her like the others did before Clay. "*Clay, your reputation was deserved. But mine...mine was not*"(Asher 216). Also, it can be said that Hannah didn't want to ruin Clay's reputation and that is why she stopped him from doing more.

*21. How does Hannah feel towards Clay Jenson? What does she say about Clay?*

Hannah, although mentioning Clay's name in the tape, also mentions how Clay didn't have anything to do with her committing suicide. Hannah clearly says "*Clay, honey, your name does not belong on this list*"(Asher 200). This means that she didn't try to accuse Clay, but to tell him the truth and since it was the last thing she left, wanted to include Clay's name on it; because she cared about him.

## Cassette 7

22. *How did the counselor, Mr. Porter, help or affect in Hannah's decision to commit suicide?*

Mr. Porter, didn't help Hannah in any way. Hannah mentioned about her situation, but all he mentioned about was getting over it and moving on. Hannah mentions about how the counselor let her out of the office, when her problems weren't solved yet. "I think I've made myself very clear, but no one's stepping forward to stop me"(Asher 280).

23. *How did Clay overcome and rebuild himself after listening to the tapes?*

Clay, after listening to the tapes, rebuilt his confidence and overcame this tape, not by himself, but also because Hannah Baker mentioned that Clay was not one of the reasons why she had committed suicide.

24. *Who is Skye and what is her relationship with Clay?*

Skye is a girl who learned to avoid everyone. Clay met her on the bus and realizes that she has similar traits to Hannah Baker. The story ends by Clay's last words, "Skye"(Asher 288).

## Epilogue

25. *How was Clay's reputation discussed in this chapter?*

Clay Jenson's reputation is described as a good one. In the last chapter, Clay also says that, "Not once, because I have never been this late"(Asher 282), which means that he was never so late before. This represents that he was a good student.

26. *Why do you think the people left Hannah's table blank?*

Probably to remind themselves that Hannah was a consequence of the ignorance between the students. Her table was not removed because nor sat on because once, a girl sat there, but now she is dead, and so to respect Hannah's death and probably from fear, they left the table in peace.

27. *Why did the story end with Clay Jenson calling Skye?*

The story ends with Clay calling Skye because it reminded him of Hannah Baker. He mentions how the way Skye walked down, looked like the last time He saw Hannah Baker. "But Skye's walking down the same stretch of hall where I watched Hannah slip away two weeks ago"(Asher 287).

## Unit Test

**True or False: If false, give the correct answer/ reason.**

1. There is only one narrator in this book.
2. Hannah was an outcast.
3. Clay does not feel guilty that Hannah died because Clay tried to become friends with Hannah.
4. Hannah was disappointed that she was not part of the "Who's Hot and Who's Not" list.
5. Hannah cried the night of the party when Clay left her.
6. After one is done with the tapes, the next person on the list will receive the tapes.

**Fill in the Blank**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was Hannah's first kiss, but also the first student who caused Hannah's death.
2. Hannah records \_\_\_\_\_ about the \_\_\_\_\_ reasons why she had decided to commit suicide.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ appears two times in recorded tapes.
4. After Rosie's, Clay met \_\_\_\_\_, who went on a drive with him.
5. Hannah gave Tony her \_\_\_\_\_ and he gave her his \_\_\_\_\_.

**Multiple Choice: Circle the best choice.**

1. Where did Hannah dream about kissing Justin?
  - a. School Library
  - b. Fast Food Restaurant
  - c. Playground
  - d. School Cafeteria

2. Clay told his mother that he would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Sleeping over at his friends
  - b. Listening to music at the park
  - c. Working on his History project
  - d. Walking his dog
  
3. What color was Hannah's bike?
  - a. Pink
  - b. Blue
  - c. Black
  - d. Maroon
  
4. Who is not a reason for Hannah's death?
  - a. Rosie
  - b. Zach
  - c. Jessica
  - d. Jenny
  
5. Where does Clay get his Walkman from?
  - a. Terry
  - b. Tom
  - c. Tony
  - d. Teddy
  
6. Courtney wanted to keep her \_\_\_, therefore she took Hanna to a party.
  - a. Grades
  - b. Boyfriend
  - c. Reputation
  - d. Dog

7. Who were in charge of the Valentine's Day event?
  - a. Cheerleaders
  - b. Student Council
  - c. The teachers
  - d. Hannah and Clay
  
8. What happened to Jenny?
  - a. She hit a dog
  - b. She hit a stop sign
  - c. She hit Hannah
  - d. She hit a car
  
9. Which diner does Clay go to?
  - a. Rosie's Diner
  - b. Jacob's Diner
  - c. Kings Diner
  - d. None of the above
  
10. How did Hannah die?
  - a. Somebody shoot her
  - b. Jumped off the school building
  - c. Got hit by a car
  - d. Had pills
  
11. At Hannah's "last day" of school, how did she react to Clay when she saw him in the hall way?
  - a. Gave him a good bye hug
  - b. Told him that she was sorry
  - c. Ignored him
  - d. Told him that she was going to die

12. How many cassette tapes did Clay find on his door way?
- a. 13
  - b. 7
  - c. 6
  - d. 12
13. Who is Mr. Porter
- a. Hannah's homeroom teacher
  - b. Hannah's principal
  - c. Hannah's math teacher
  - d. Hannah's counselor
14. What are the missing words from Hannah's quote?
- "I do \_\_\_\_ you. In fact, I \_\_\_\_\_ almost all of you."*
- a. Love
  - b. Hate
  - c. Forgive
  - d. Understand
15. Who is the next person to revive the tapes Clay finished listening to?
- a. Jenny Kurtz
  - b. Justin Foley
  - c. Hanna's parents
  - d. Mr. Porter
16. What did Hannah send with the tapes?
- a. A pair of earphones
  - b. A thank you letter
  - c. A map of her house
  - d. A map with stars

**Short Answers: Do not write more than 3 sentences.**

1. What happened to Hannah?
2. Why does Hannah blame her self and Justin for what happened to Jessica Davis?
3. After Clay received the tapes, what did you do with them?
4. Why did Hannah go over to Tony's house?
5. Why would Hannah give Tony the sets of tape recorded, when he is not on the 13 list?
6. Why was Hannah disappointed at Rosie's Diner?
7. Does Clay try to reach out to Hannah? If so, was he successful?
8. What is Mr. Porter's reaction when Hannah tells him she does not know what to do?
9. Why was Clay bleeding?
10. Did Hannah's parents figure out Hannah's reason to die?

**Essay: Support your answer by using reasons and examples from the novel.**

1. How does the rumors build up and lead Hannah to decide to commit suicide?
2. Through the novel, how does rumors affect ones life.
3. If you were the counselor, what would have you said? Would you let Hannah leave the room?
4. Do you think the twelve students planned everything out when Hannah was near? Why or why not?
5. Based on the novel, if you were Hannah, would you commit suicide or not?
6. What do you think about the ending of the novel?



## Unit Test Answer Key

### True or False

1. False, Hannah and Clay are both the narrator of this novel.
2. True
3. False, Clay felt guilty because he did not try harder to understand Hannah.
4. False, Hannah was part of the list. This caused Hannah to become the sexual icon.
5. True
6. True

### Fill in the Blanks

1. Justin
2. Tapes & 13
3. Justin
4. Tony
5. Bike (blue bike) & tape records

### Multiple Choice

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 9. A  |
| 2. C | 10. D |
| 3. B | 11. B |
| 4. A | 12. A |
| 5. C | 13. D |
| 6. C | 14. C |
| 7. A | 15. A |
| 8. B | 16. D |

### Short Answers

1. Hannah committed suicide because of the rumors that started to spread. Nobody would become fiends with Hannah and Hannah did not have anyone

2. Hannah and Justin were both at the party but did not stop Bryce Walker, Justin's friend.
3. Clay was listening to all the tapes with Tony's walkman. He went to each course, the locations that were listed in the tapes.
4. Hannah went to Tony's house because he was one of the only students who actually realized Hannah's existence (in a positive way). She gave Tony her bike because she knew that he would need it someday. She had also trusted Tony to take care of her bike.
5. Since Tony was the one person Hannah had faith in, she wanted him to send the tapes out. If she had sent the tape to the first person, then nobody would have taken it seriously. However, since Tony was one of the students not on the list, he could make sure the tapes would get sent to the correct person.
6. Hannah thought Marcus would really show up. She thought he actually had interests going out with Hannah.
7. Clay went to work where Hannah works, the movie theater. He tries to interact with Hannah, but Hannah rejects his kindness.
8. Mr. Porter tells her to move on.
9. After hearing that Hannah was part of a manual sex with Bryce, Clay was vexed and scrapped his on a fence.
10. Hannah wanted the tape listeners to keep a secret; to not tell her parents. She cared for her parents and did not want them to know she committed suicide because of her classmates and rumors.

## Essays

1. The main cause of the rumors about Hannah started when the “Best Ass in the Freshman Class” and the “Whose hot, whose not” list started to spread. Because of these lists Hannah became a sexual icon at her school. With the rumors started to pile up, Hannah gradually started to create a distance between her peers. People would make fun of her or use her and Hannah would no longer trust them. Hannah was in a situation where she could not open her mind to others, therefore she was not able to get mental help. Due to the fact that nobody could help her, Hannah believed that nobody cared for her. This led to her death.
2. Through this novel, the readers can see that the rumors that occurred at Hannah’s school brought her misery, leading to her death. Though the rumors might start small, it will eventually grow bringing people to misunderstand that person. There is no limit to rumors, however the others have to control the rumors and think of that person’s position.
3. Honestly, what Mr. Porter did was wrong. He is supposed to make Hannah comfortable with Hannah approaching him and talking about the issues she has been through. Mr. Porter did question Hannah slowly to open up, but later on it seemed like he was forcing Hannah to talk about her issues. Also, when Hannah was standing up to leave, he should have done whatever it took to stop her and finish the discussion. He knew there was drama going on in Hannah’s life but did not try to solve it or help Hannah make the correct decision.
4. While reading the novel, in one way it seemed like the students had planned everything out. For an example, during the Valentines Day event. The cheerleaders and Marcus could have planned Hannah to be Marcus’s Valentine’s and she the reaction of Hannah. Many of the characters might have volunteered to mess around with Hannah. However, some of the events seem so sudden that there would have been no time to plan, such as Jenny’s accident. Jenny was drunk and did not know what she was doing, which led to the death of 2 people. Looking at this incident, the

twelve students could have not plan to fool around with Hannah, it could have been a coincidence.

5. If I were Hannah, I would have not committed suicide. Hannah might have had no reasons to live and continue her life, however if she had opened her thoughts to her parents or had a serious talk with the counselor, Hannah could have found different ways to cure her depression/mental struggles. During the novel, Hannah seemed a bit slow noticing others mind. She was not able to notice that Clay wanted to reach out for Hannah and cared for her. If Hannah wanted to have revenge on the twelve students who were on the list, she should have found a different option. Losing her one and only life seems like a dumb discussion because of false information about Hannah. She should have released the tape acting like she had died and then reappeared haunting the people on the list.
6. The ending of the story was quite different from what I had expected. The story ends by Clay being able to talk to the girl she saw on the bus. Through the ending of the novel, the audiences can see the growth of Clay. Before when Hannah was alive, he was not able to approach to someone not close. However, after listening to Hannah's tape, Clay learns that he will never know what will happen to someone near. Since there is not a limit of someone's life, one must treat another with care. Clay learned to make his action before he regrets.